



2020 Eagle Hill Institute  
Online Natural History Seminars  
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# The Poet and The Natural World

Hayley Kolding

Wednesdays, July 29th - August 26th, 2020

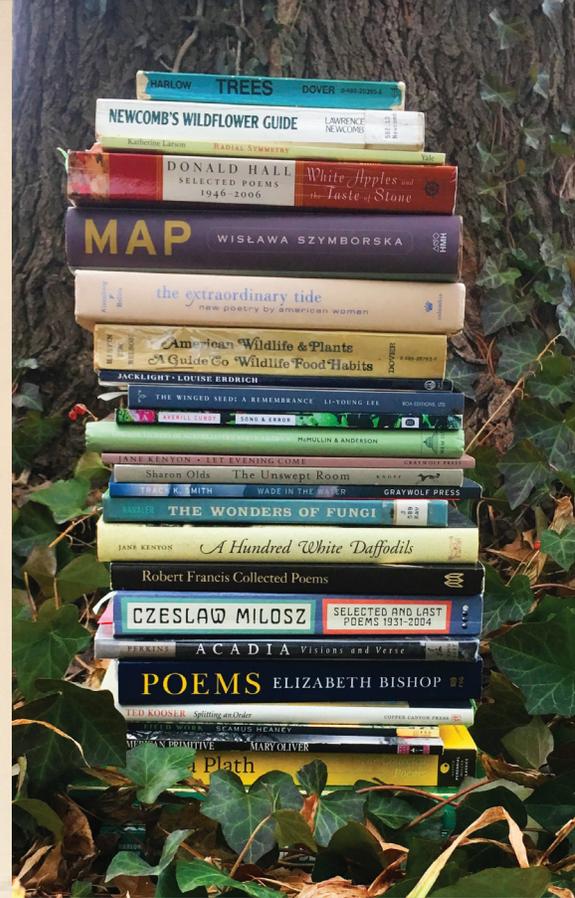
The natural historian and the poet share an essential similarity in their attention to detail and in their sense of wonder. With its roots in the oral tradition of storytelling and song, poetry provides a rich way of engaging with and experiencing the natural world. In this course, which is designed for both writers and scientists, we will cultivate an understanding and appreciation of poetic craft by reading, discussing, and writing poems relating to natural history.

Each week, you will receive a specially curated set of poems and readings. Text sets will include a wide variety of styles and voices and will center around specific aspects of craft as well as topics pertinent to the naturalist as poet. We will meet on Wednesdays for lively and informative lectures followed by robust discussions. Prepare to get technical about the finer points of craft, explore our reactions (reflective? rhapsodic? unvarnished?) to poems, and discover the flora and fauna that appear in our readings. Our discussions are guaranteed to be enjoyable and enlightening.

You will carry on each week's lesson at home by writing poems of your own about natural settings of your choice. Assignments will include flexible levels of prompts and guidance to satisfy anyone from the newest to the most independent of writers. You will have the opportunity to share your work and to receive feedback. Grounding ourselves in extraordinary model texts and in our own environments, we will heighten our sensitivity to natural imagery in the poems that we read. We will develop, too, a richer and more precise vocabulary for describing nature in the poems that we write.

## About the Instructor

**Hayley Kolding** (hayley.kolding@gmail.com) teaches English and serves on the board of the Connecticut Botanical Society. She studied English at Yale University with a focus in poetry and translation. As seen in her 2019 Eagle Hill lecture, *Fraught Wonder: Reactions to the Rise of Science in "The Sensitive Plant"* by Percy Bysshe Shelley, her writing and research often combine literature and natural history. Her poetry has appeared in *The New Journal*, *These Fifty States*, *The Yale Herald*, *JOLT*, and *Kalliope*.



## Scheduling Details

Wednesday Evenings

July 29: 6:30-8:30 PM EST

August 5: 6:30-8:30 PM EST

August 12: 6:30-8:30 PM EST

August 19: 6:30-8:30 PM EST

August 26: 6:30-8:30 PM EST

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us...> signup is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.